

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this paper, Claims 1-3, 6-12, and 14-28 were pending. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 15, and 28 are allowed. Claims 11, 12, and 17-26 were rejected. Claims 14, 16, and 27 were identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In this paper, Claims 20 and 22-27 are amended; and Claim 21 is cancelled. Claims 1-3, 6-12, 14-20, and 22-28 are currently pending. In this paper, whenever language is quoted from a claim that has been amended with regard to portion of the claim quoted, the quoted claim language is that of the claim as amended. No new matter is added by way of this amendment. For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the presently pending claims is in condition for allowance.

Examiner Interview

A telephonic interview was held between Applicants' representative and Examiner on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at about 3:00 PM Pacific Time, 6:00 PM Eastern Time. Claim 11 was discussed. Applicants' representative and Examiner came to an agreement that Claim 11 is allowable for reasons similar to those for which Claim 1 is allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter (1-3, 6-12, 14-19, 23-25, 27, and 28)

Applicants appreciate the indications that Claims 1-3, 6-10, 15, and 28 are allowed and thank the Examiner for his work on this matter.

The Examiner indicated that Claim 11 is allowable in the telephonic interview held on February 20, 2007. Claims 12, 14, and 16-19 depend from Claim 11. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 11, 12, 14, and 16-19 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 27 was identified as being allowable if re-written in independent form. Claim 27 is respectfully submitted to depend from an allowable claim for at least the reasons stated below. Claims 23-25 depend from allowable Claim 27. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully

submitted that Claims 23-25 and 27 are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections (20, 22, and 26)

Claims 20, 22, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) as being anticipated by Murphy (US 6,157,257).

Claim 20 is respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because Murphy fails to disclose, “means for providing a second local current,” as recited in Applicants’ Claim 20.

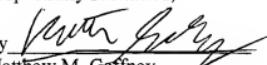
Claim 26 is respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because Murphy fails to disclose, “a second current source circuit having at least an output, wherein the output of the second current source circuit is connected to the bus, and wherein the second current source circuit is arranged to provide a second local current at an output of the second current source circuit such that at least a portion of the second output current is prevented from being carried on the bus,” as recited in Applicants’ Claim 26. Claim 22 is respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because it depends from Claim 26.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (Claims 1-3, 6-12, 14-20 and 22-28) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby. Although only certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentable. Applicant reserves the right to raise these arguments in the future.

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Respectfully submitted,

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